



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 806 - HB 1476

March 20, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (006291): Requires the criteria established by the Department of Correction (DOC) for awarding credits for good institutional behavior to inmates include a requirement that the inmate complete a DOC approved validated risk and needs assessment and participate in programming or employment in order for the inmate to be eligible to earn sentence credits for good institutional behavior.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:

Other Fiscal Impact – Due to a number of unknown factors, the extent and timing of any fiscal impact to state incarceration expenditures cannot be quantified.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 41-21-236(a)(2), an inmate committed to the custody of the DOC who exhibits good institutional behavior or who exhibits satisfactory performance may be awarded time credits toward the sentence imposed at a rate up to eight days for each month served for good institutional behavior and up to eight days for each month served for satisfactory program performance, in accordance with criteria established by the DOC.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 41-21-236(a)(6), the refusal of an inmate to participate in any assigned work, educational or vocational training program constitutes a disciplinary offense for which the inmate can be penalized by the loss of sentence credits previously awarded.
- The proposed legislation does not alter the number of sentence reduction credits an individual is authorized to receive.
- Further, inmates who currently refuse to participate in assigned work, educational or vocational training program are subject to a loss of previously awarded sentence reduction credits.
- Any change in sentence reduction credits resulting from the proposed legislation is dependent on several unknown factors, including but not limited to: sentences being imposed for each inmate; the overall sentences of each inmate; and the number of inmates who refuse to participate in any programming or employment. The extent and timing of any changes cannot reasonably be quantified.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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